SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Gamble in the Beet Patch

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

The growing of garden beets seems to be a bit of a gamble in our part of the world. One gardener will have rows of beautiful beets in his vegetable patch, while the fellow next door can't grow them for sour apples.

It isn't the weather which is at fault, but our soil. As a matter of fact, our climate is almost ideal for beet culture, for the beet was originally a seaside plant, and it likes a cool climate where the air is not too dry. Inland, where the summers are really hot, they become woody and stringy in texture when mature, but in our gentle climate the beet manufactures quite a bit of sugar in its cells, which you can taste if you try a bit raw.

Where we go wrong on beets is in our soil. This plant is very sensitive to toxic substances in the soil, and while plenty of lime will neutralize these toxic materials, many of our gardens are deficient in lime.

* * *

The beet, too, reacts quickly and unhappily to a shortage of certain minerals in the soil, and our heavy winter rains tend to leach out such elements as boron, essential for well-flavored beets. Without boron, the beets will have black spots dotted all through the flesh, and will have a bitter taste.

There is seldom any trouble growing good beets on ground which has had its annual dressing of manure over a long period of years, for manure is excellent insurance against minor element deficiencies.

Trouble is, we never have enough manure to go round, and most of us must make do by digging in compost or peat moss to soak up and hold the essential minerals against winter leaching, and to give the beet site plenty of lime and wood ashes. Wood ashes supply potash, without which the plants make lots of leaves but no beets on the ends of them.

* * *

Some years ago, I dreamed up a method of correcting the minor element dificiencies in beet soil which I think is rather neat. Using the old noggin, I reasoned that all the boron, magnesium, copper, etc., which is washed out of our soil must necessarily find its way into the ocean, and it seemed reasonable that the easy way to put it back would be to give the beets a little sea water—not much, just a pint to the gallon of fresh water, applied with the watering can every two weeks through the growing season. I've never had a failure with my beets since I started this stunt.

In our family, we like to pull our beets while they are still small and tender, about the size of golf balls, so we make small sowings every two weeks throughout the spring and early summer, starting in mid-April. This keeps a small but constant supply of deliciously tender young beets and beet-tops flowing to our table rather than the usual glut.

* * *

Seeds are sown half an inch deep and an inch apart in the rows. Each seeds, which looks like a bit of cork, is really a cluster of seeds, so you'll get anywhere from two to seven plants coming up from each seed planted. Such crowding is fatal, so the rows must be "singled" as soon as the seedlings are big enough to handle. Thereafter, the rows are thinned every 10 days until the plants are spaced six inches apart. These later thinnings can be used as boiled greens.

This six-inch spacing is plenty for our baby beets, but if you want big ones for exhibition purposes, you can pull alternate beets for the table while remainder to plump themselves up in the golf-ball-size stage, leaving the with a full 12 inches between them.

Von Braun Offers Plan For Space Race Win

Research, Not Crash

By WILLIAM HINES

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (NANA)—Dr. Wernher von Braun believes the United States should start immediately to "refill its vat of scientific knowledge" about space technology.

The cost, he estimates, will amount to about one-tenth of our total missile effort, or something under $1,000,000,000 a year. The alternative, he is sure, is defeat by the Soviet Union in the race into space.

These are conclusions drawn from an exclusive interview with the German-born army rocket scientist, who is director of the development and operations division of the army ballistic missile agency at Redstone Arsenal near here.

Elegant in its simplicity, Dr. von Braun's plan consists of adding a 10 per cent "surcharge" to all missile development contracts, earmarking the extra sum for research "to advance the art."

"For years we have been talking too much about hardware, and too little about filling the vat of knowledge," Dr. von Braun said. "We have been taking from that vat for years and putting little or nothing back in. Now we are scraping the bottom."

National traditions probably have something to do with the research lag, Dr. von Braun indicated.

"The Russians have a tradition of thinking in terms of five-year plans—of putting two of these together and getting a 10-year plan," he pointed out. "We think in terms of fiscal years for appropriations, and model years for cars.

"This is a very costly procedure. I am convinced that our lack of ability to really plan ahead is costing the taxpayers a lot of money."

In addition to paying too much attention to hardware and too little to research, Dr. von Braun criticized "off-again, on-again" space age projects, and their resulting "crash programs."

"I'm in favor of a little less crash and a little more program," he quipped.

"So many people are after the taxpayer's money now," Dr. von Braun continued, "that there has to be some mechanism to control the way research money is spent.

"We appoint committees; I serve on a lot of them. They are mostly window-dressing. They are prestige committees.

"I say we should forget about these prestige committees and get down to work.

"There are a great number of development outfits in this country—little ones as well as big ones—that have demonstrated their ability to build missiles. They ought to be able to demonstrate as well their ability to advance the art.

"Every company getting a development contract should be given 10 per cent over and above ad-hoc hardware money for research to advance the art."

Reports of results of their research should be forthcoming, Dr. von Braun said, and some companies might have to be cut off the list for failing to deliver adequate reports.

Hollywood Today — *By Sheilah Graham*

Rex's Taxes Film Headache

HOLLYWOOD (NANA)—**Rex Harrison** is reported to be the reason why the **Kay Kendall-Yul Brynner** movie version of "Once More with Feeling" will be made in Paris instead of London. The change adds $250,000 to the budget. Rexy is leaving his "My Fair Lady" hit in London March 28 because of a tax situation. Kay is getting $150,000 for the movie with Yul. But she wants to be with her husband, Rex—and the picture will be filmed in France.

* * *

Dennis Hamilton was hoping to the end to be reunited with estranged wife **Diana Dors**, who visited him frequently during his long illness. The scenes at Hamilton's funeral in Britain make me glad I'm not a movie star. They reminded me of the ending of "A Star Is Born."

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The race-conscious censors in South Africa scissored from the "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness" the scene where **Curt Jurgens** asked **Ingrid Bergman**: "Could you love a man of mixed blood?"

* * *

When **John Ireland** dropped out of the stage version of "Destry Rides Again," it left producer **David Merrick** in quite a spot. Seems that Merrick had signed the deal, but Ireland hadn't, although he had agreed orally.

* * *

Kevin McClory and **Ivar Bryce**, who went into partnership for "The Boy and the Bridge," are currently in the Bahamas planning more movies for their Xanadu Film Company. Approximately for McClory, "The Boy and the Bridge" will be released in the U.S. on St. Patrick's Day.

'Chemical Dungheap'

Flight to Planets Isn't Worth Cost

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (AP)—Large-scale exploration of the planets—some of which are "the chemical dungheap of the solar system"—would not be worth the cost, says astrophysicist Heinz Haber.

Haber, former instructor at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine here, stated:

"We can say with a fair degree of probability that none of the planets is equipped to be of absolutely vital interest in terms of human affairs.

"The other planets are the chemical dungheap of the solar system, and it is not likely we shall find earth-shaking scientific novelties in the masses of noxious chemicals that constitute their outer shells."

But, he said, space exploration could result in communications relay satellites, development of world-wide television networks, and above all, eventual control of weather and climate.

Winning Contract

Vul: Both

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 4 3
♡ 10 8 4
◇ J 5 3
♣ 5 4

WEST
♠ A 7 6 2
♡ 6
◇ A Q 8 7 4
♣ Q 7 6

EAST
♠ J 9 5
♡ K J 9 5 3
◇ 10 6 2
♣ 10 3

SOUTH (D)
♠ 8
♡ A Q 7 2
◇ K 9
♣ A K J 9 8 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ◇	Pass	1 ♡
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	All Pass		

Opening lead: ♠ A

Although this hand was played some years ago in an important tournament, it is appropriate to discuss it at this time because it was played by Charles Solomon, non-playing captain of our U.S. team in next week's World Championship matches against Italy and Argentina. East's bid of one heart could charitably be called lead-directive, while West's opening lead is plainly absurd, but may not have affected the eventual outcome. South's conservative rebid of two clubs is very sound. Solomon realized that, in spite of his big hand, game was an extremely remote possibility.

West switched to the heart six at trick two, South capturing East's king with his ace. Declarer cashed two rounds of trumps, followed by the heart queen, which West wisely refused to ruff. A trump put West in the lead, and he led the diamond ace.

This was the crucial trick. If South plays low, West continues with a small diamond, won by declarer's king, but East-West still get two heart tricks, and South is down one. Realizing this, Solomon dropped his king under the diamond ace! It was a swap of two tricks for one. West was forced to put dummy in the lead after cashing the diamond queen, enabling declarer to discard both his losing hearts.

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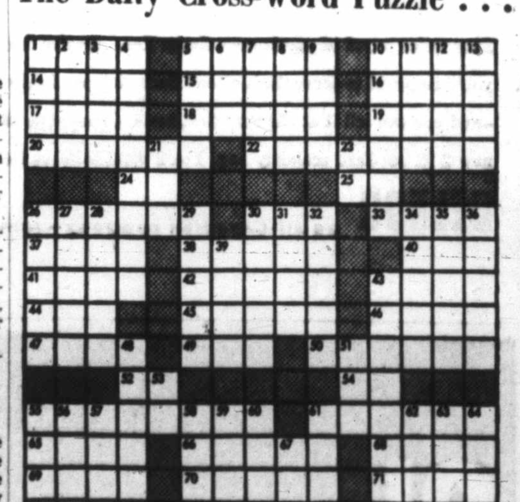
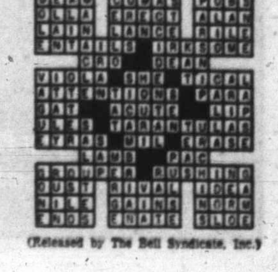
The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Asterisk.
5. Velocity.
10. Walk.
14. At this place
15. Analyze grammatically.
16. Peel.
17. Word of sorrow.
18. Foreigner.
19. Oxidize.
20. One who sacrifices life for a principle.
22. Hermits.
24. Faroe island's windstorm.
25. By.
26. Kind of beetle.
30. Mimic.
33. Thick flat piece.
37. Wan.
38. Rants.
40. Man's name.
41. Dry.
42. Coalition.
43. Agitate.
44. Tattered cloth.
45. Fatuous.
46. Advertising display sign.
47. Heating vessel.
49. Color.
50. Part of boat (pl.)
52. Artificial language.
54. Pacific island's screw pine.
55. Slate.
61. Small European herrings.
65. Hebrew name of ancient Syria.
66. Something worthless.
68. Arrow poison.
69. Tibetan priest.
70. Kind of dye.
71. Feminine name.
72. Pronoun.
73. Velocity.
74. Small insect.

DOWN
1. Pretense.
2. Tissue
3. Sandarac tree.
4. Replaced.
5. Box.
6. Chum.
7. Great Lake.
8. Danish weight (pl.).
9. English sandhill.
10. Germinates.
11. Tense.
12. Irish Gaelic.
13. Fondles.
21. Affirmative vote.
23. Child for mother.
26. Extra tire.
27. Gem weight.
28. To adjust to a line.
29. To noise about.
30. Of the birds.
31. Mexican laborer.
32. Anglo-Saxon slaves.
34. Measure of capacity.
35. [illegible] with power of speech.
36. Farm buildings.
39. Girl's name.
43. Scoffing.
48. Odors.
51. Gratuity.
53. Correlative of either.
55. Gypsy.
56. Seaport in Algiers.
57. Crippled.
58. Sweetsop.
59. Let fall.
60. River of Europe.
61. Dispatch.
62. After awhile.
63. Buddhist church in Japan.
64. Chair.
67. Transfix.

(Answer to Previous Puzzle)



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